

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 25-36, 39 and 40 are pending in the present application.

The Office Action sets forth a requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 for an election of a single one of the following groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1-12, drawn to a body panel mounting system, classified in Class 296, Subclass 187.12.
- II. Claims 25-36, 39-40, drawn to a body panel mounting system, classified in Class 296, Subclass 204.

In response, Applicants hereby elect Group II (Claims 25-36 and 39-40) without traverse.

The Office Action further sets forth a requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 for an election of a single one of the following species to which prosecution on the merits shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable:

- Species A, directed towards Figs. 1-2, 4, 5A, 6, 7;
- Species B, directed towards Fig. 3;
- Species C, directed towards Fig. 5B;
- Species D, directed towards Fig. 8;
- Species E, directed towards Fig. 9; and
- Species F, directed towards Figs. 10-12.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement to the extent that it separates the figures of Species B, Species C, and Species D from the figures of Species A. Applicants respectfully point out that:

- Species B (Fig. 3) shows an exploded view of the support bracket of Species A (Figs. 1A and 1B).
- Species C (Fig. 5B) shows a cross-sectional view of a portion of the panel support shown in Species A (Fig. 5A).
- Species D (Fig. 8) shows a cross-sectional view of a portion of the panel support and spacer coupled with the hinge bar or latch bar of Species A (Fig. 2).

Thus, it is respectfully requested that the restriction between Species A, B, C and D be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicants hereby elect Species F (Figs. 10-12) with traverse as discussed above. Claims readable on elected Species F include Group II (Claims 25-36, 39-40).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed. Any other fee required by this document, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be

Application No. 10/804,399

Response To Election/Restriction Requirement dated August 20, 2004

In Reply to Office Action dated July 21, 2004

charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____



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